

## **BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS**

**A meeting of the Board of Fire Engineers was held October 29, 2009; meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance: Chief Al Galinelli, Norman Blank, Robert Miner, James Sousa, Brian Remy, Jon Ulmschneider, Christopher Stanley, Anthony Primiano, & Carolyn O'Brien. Also: John M. Jannitto, Vincent Calenda, Norman Guertin, and Robert Horton.**

**The main purpose of this meeting was to bring together the Board members and the company captains to discuss recent situations within the department.**

**The Chief stated a few weeks ago he received a telephone call informing him a person or persons had items belonging to the Warren Fire Department in their possession without proper authority. An investigation discovered, among other items, gear, an oxygen bottle from Eng. 6, a Kenwood portable radio, and a light bar, which was originally to have been for the captain of Eng. 3. The light bar was found in a personal vehicle, and was being used in Massachusetts. Some items had already been sold on e-bay. Following the meeting, the Chief will distribute all returned items to the proper companies. Those individuals involved have been dropped from this department.**

**Colin Freitas returned his gear and pager to Capt. Calenda; however, the helmet he returned did not belong to this department. The Chief**

**stated this is one of the reasons his policy is that all returned gear must come through his office from the individuals themselves, in order that he can verify all items issued are being returned. The Chief emphasized that Colin Freditas did not steal any of the items found in his possession; however, he took it from others and kept it in his home. In the future, the Chief stated he will note the serial numbers of issued gear on the individuals paperwork.**

**The Chief wants all company officers to review their equipment, and to secure any items stored in closets or areas other than on the trucks. The Chief also stated if the companies want to change the access codes to their stations, they should notify him.**

**R. Miner made a motion, with second by N. Blank, to send a letter to each individual involved informing them they are not permitted on fire department property unless escorted by an officer of that company. A copy of the letters will be forwarded to the company captains. In addition, a complete list of those involved will be provided to the company captains. Motion unanimously carried.**

**Capt. Jannitto stated he thinks the members should be informed by their captains of the ramifications of behavior and actions unbecoming of a department member. The Chief stated he feels the department needs to better control having out of town individuals in the department.**

Chief got quote from Atlantic Flags for a 20' and two 15' flag poles; including installation the cost will be approximately \$2,400. B. Remy made motion, with second by N. Blank, to proceed; motion unanimously approved. The Chief asked if each company would be willing to donate \$100 towards the purchase.

Letters were sent to all individuals who were to take the EMT-B class, which just started; some individuals letters were returned due to improper addresses. Chief wants all members to notify his office of any address changes, in order that his records can remain accurate.

Jeremy Andrade, Steve Logan, Lawrence Orterry, Matthew Travers, and Andrew Pezzullo have been dropped from the Firefighter I course; they have already missed three classes each.

Company membership lists were distributed to the captains. The Chief wants the memberships reviewed for individuals with gear and/or pagers who are not active. He would like this information by the next Board meeting. He will notify such members that all items are to be returned to the Chief's office for distribution to active members.

The new tanker and pumper are in, but are now at Bulldog for equipment mounting. Chief stated a photo of the new tanker is already online. In the future he would like any company member wishing to post photos of WFD equipment inform him first.

Chief advised A. Primiano that John Cummings showed up at an auto accident in new blue turnout gear. Chief wants J. Cummings informed he is not to wear his own gear at Warren Fire Department calls; it is not approved as required by WFD SOPs. V. Calenda stated he has concerns about J. Cummings failure to follow WFD policies. Based on this and recent other problems involving J. Cummings, N. Blank made a motion, with second by B. Remy, to remove Cummings from the Warren Fire Department. N. Blank stated he thinks the notification letter should also include language that Cummings is not to be in the stations without being escorted by a respective company officer.

Chief stated the department has the capability of keeping one truck as a reserve; he wants the Board members to decide which one to keep. J. Ulmschneider said Eng. 5 is in need of considerable body work; the truck would probably need \$7,000-10,000 to repair the body rot. Although Eng. 4 (formerly Eng. 1) is an older truck and has an open jump seat, it has more forestry hose, has a Hale pump like all our other trucks, and is in better condition. It is estimated Eng. 4 will last at least another 3-4 years. B. Remy made motion, with second by N. Blank, to keep Eng. 4 as a reserve and use Eng. 5 for its resale value. Motion unanimously carried.

Chief informed everyone a 12 year old girl from Bristol died of H1N1. State-wide vaccines will be given in the schools on a random

**schedule. Warren is scheduled as follows: Nov. 13 – KMS (daytime), Nov. 19 – East Bay Career Academy, Dec. 8 – Our Lady of Fatima (daytimes), and Dec. 10 – Hugh Cole (evening). Chief would like to have an individual with an 800 radio at each in case of an emergency.**

**Chief asked if any of the companies had a problem with the revised parade route for Firemen's Memorial Sunday. J. Ulmschneider said Eng. 5 members do not like the change. J. Sousa suggested Railroad Ave. to Child St. instead of Croade.**

**Chief stated he will notify dispatch to not have Special Hazards sent on fire alarms so often when not needed. N. Blank asked if rescue and an engine should be sent on carbon monoxide calls. Chief said no, since Hazards has the gas meter, not the others.**

**Sta. 5 open house is Nov. 8th from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Sta. 6 new truck and station dedication scheduled for Nov. 22nd at noon. Dress uniforms required.**

**N. Guertin thanked everyone for their support of the Ladder company's Surf & Turf.**

**Chief wants Board to think about next year's capital item budget, and bring thoughts to Nov. Board meeting. He feels we will need to put in for a new rescue and new Chief's vehicle.**

**Chief stated he would like to remain as Chief for a few more years and keep the Board as is.**

**There being no further business to discuss, A. Primiano made motion, with second by R. Miner, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously; meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**